

**From:** [Eoc, Epahq](#)  
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**Subject:** EOC Spot Report, Region 6, Post-Tropical Cyclone Harvey - Update #28  
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**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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## **EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Post-Tropical Cyclone Harvey - Update #28**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Report as of September 17, 2017 at 1:25 pm ET**

**Overview:** Hurricane Harvey made landfall at 2300 ET, August 26, as a Category 4 storm near Rockport, TX. Harvey was downgraded to a Category 1 Hurricane and stalled over southeastern TX. Response efforts associated with Hurricane Harvey continue.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** FEMA has activated the NRCC at Level 1 with all Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and deployed National and several regional Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMATs). FEMA's Region 6 RRCC is also at Level 1.

### **EPA Actions:**

- EPA issued a news release highlighting Administrator Scott Pruitt's visit to Houston, Texas on September 15, 2017, to review the Agency's response efforts in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. Administrator Pruitt toured the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site and met with state and federal officials. Administrator Pruitt also participated in an aerial tour of additional Superfund Sites including Patrick Bayou, U.S. Oil Recovery, Highlands Acid Pits, French Unlimited, Brio Refining, and Dixie Oil Processors.
- Joint EPA and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) field observation teams continue to observe debris staging and landfill operations within the hurricane impacted counties in Texas to ensure best practices and program requirements are being met. Currently, FEMA estimates debris to total 16.5 million cubic yards. (This is revised from yesterday's report which was a misunderstanding of what FEMA reported). Observations began in Houston on September 14, 2017; observations will begin in Corpus Christi tomorrow, September 18, 2017. A federal Debris Management Taskforce has been established at the Joint Field Office (JFO) in

Austin and EPA is a member of the Taskforce.

- EPA completed sampling of all 34 Texas Superfund sites potentially impacted by the storm, September 15, 2017. EPA has released 15 post-hurricane Superfund site summaries based on preliminary data on the [www.epa.gov/hurricane-harvey](http://www.epa.gov/hurricane-harvey) website.
- EPA's dive team finished collecting samples at the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site on September 15, 2017 and demobilized from the site yesterday. Results of the analyses will be used to ensure the temporary cap of the site did not release contaminants. The responsible party continues to repair the armored layer of the cap.
- All three branches of Unified Command continue recovering and staging orphan containers for proper disposal. The Corpus Christi Branch is transitioning the remaining open sites to the appropriate TCEQ Regional Office for closeout. All containers on the staging pad will be transferred to the Houston Branch by September 18, 2017, before being shipped for disposal. The Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch is projected to complete recovery activities within 10 days, and the Houston Branch within 20 days.
- The TCEQ is requesting FEMA to increase EPA's ESF-10 Mission Assignment by \$8.3 million in stages. Once fully approved, this will bring the total funding for assessment and response to \$18.3 million.

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

- EPA issued No Action Assurance Extensions to TCEQ on September 15, 2017, on Loading of Tank Fuel Trucks at Petroleum Distribution Terminals, Landing Roofs on Gasoline Storage Vessels, and the Use of Vapor Recovery Systems. The extensions were provided until September 22, 2017, at 11:59 PM CDT. The No Action Assurance letters are available to the public on [www.epa.gov/hurricane-harvey](http://www.epa.gov/hurricane-harvey).

## **REFINERIES / FUEL WAIVERS**

- The multi-state fuel waiver expired September 15, 2017.
- On September 13, 2017, EPA extended the waiver of certain requirements of the Clean Air Act for the State of Texas until October 1, 2017.
- EPA is waiving the 7.8 psi Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) standard that applies in Eastern Texas State Implementation Plan (SIP) RVP Counties until the end of the summer "high ozone" season on October 1, 2017.
- EPA is waiving the federal Reformulated Gasoline (RFG) requirements in Texas. Under this waiver, EPA will allow regulated parties to produce, sell or distribute conventional winter gasoline in any RFG covered area within Texas. This will also prohibit any person from combining any RFG BOB with any other gasoline, blend stock, or oxygenate, unless certain conditions are met.
- EPA issued a No Action Assurance for the Use of Vapor Recovery Systems in Texas Related to Hurricane Harvey on September 1, 2017. EPA will exercise its discretion not to pursue enforcement for violations of the vapor recovery requirements for fuel loading and unloading under 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart XX and Part 63 Subparts, R, Y, CC, BBBBBB, and 30 Texas Administrative Code sections 115.212, .214.

- The Internal Revenue Service red dye fuel waiver covers the entire state of Texas.
- On September 15, 2017, a No Action Assurance was issued for the import of generators by the Yamaha Motor Corporation that will be donated to communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Hurricane Irma in Florida. The generators are currently labeled to meet Canada's requirements for sale with respect to emission information, not the United States', thus their import would be a violation of EPA's Clean Air Act. The generators will not emit air pollution above EPA standards, therefore, EPA will exercise its discretion not to pursue violations.

### **DEBRIS RECOVERY**

Joint EPA and TCEQ field observation teams continue to observe debris staging and landfill operations within the hurricane impacted counties in Texas to ensure best practices and program requirements are being met. FEMA estimates debris to total 16.5 million cubic yards. (This is revised from yesterday's report). Observations were completed at 81 sites in the Houston area on September 14 & 15; observations will begin in Corpus Christi on September 18, 2017. A federal Debris Management Taskforce has been established at the JFO in Austin and EPA is a member of the Taskforce.

### **AIR MONITORING**

No monitoring was conducted by the TAGA on September 16, 2017. TAGA monitoring will resume on September 17, 2017 starting in Texas City and moving to Sweeny.

**Media Interest:** High

**The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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